

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

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SCCT-01 IO-13 /071 W

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R 050420Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CVIS IN NP

SUBJECT: ANANDA MARG IMPLICATED IN ANTI-PALACE ACTIVITIES

1. PALACE IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING ACTIVITIES OF A GROUP OF INDIAN AND NEPALESE CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN ALLEGED PLOT TO DESTROY NUMBER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN KATHMANDU. ACCORDING TO A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES KATHMANDU POLICE EARLY IN WEEK OF JULY 24-31 ARRESTED SOME 135 PERSONS ON CHARGES OF ENGAGING IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. PERSONS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE POSSESSED PAMPHLETS AND PLANS TO BLOW UP NUMBER OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES INCLUDING POWER STATION, AIRPORT AND BRIDGES. NO WEAPONS OR EXPLOSIVES WERE SEIZED, ALTHOUGH ONE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ARRESTED IS SAID TO HAVE HAD A RADIO TRANSMITTER IN HIS HOUSE WITHOUT LICENSE. OTHERS ARRESTED INCLUDE A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE PALACE AND THE EDITOR OF A PRO-INDIAN PAPER, SAMAYA, IN KATHMANDU. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MANY OF THOSE PICKED UP ARE MEMBERS OF THE ANANDA MARG SECT.

2. POLICE HAVE RELEASED ABOUT HALF OF THOSE ARRESTED ON BAIL BUT CONTINUE TO INTERROGATE MEMBERS OF ANANDA MARG IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER INDIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTED TO OR HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. THERE IS A WIDE RUMOR THAT POLICE HAVE COLLECTED

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SOME EVIDENCE LINKING THE PAMPHLETS TO AN INDIAN EMBASSY

OFFICIAL AND THAT SOME ARRESTED HAVE CONFESSED THAT THEY RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE SAME OFFICIAL WHO IS ASSUMED TO BE AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO JOURNALISTIC SOURCES THE GROUP IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF RELIGIOUS FANATICS WHO PROFESSED THE NEED TO "PURIFY" NEPAL AND INSTILL A TRUE SENSE OF RELIGIOUS DEDICATION AMONG THE MASSES. THESE SAME SOURCES NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF INDIAN INTELLIGENCE WERE INVOLVED IT MAY HAVE BEEN A PLOT TO FURTHER BLACKEN THE NAME OF ANANDA MARG AND STRENGTHEN CHARGES IN INDIA THAT THE GROUP IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. WHETHER OR NOT THE GROUP ACTUALLY HAD THE FACILITIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLAN OF ATTACK IS A MOOT POINT SINCE THE POLICE MOVED QUICKLY AGAINST ANY AND ALL SUSPECTED OF HAVING CONTACT WITH THEM. AS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE SAID, "THEY CAME HERE TO ESTABLISH ROOTS. NOW THEY ARE ROOTLESS."

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